

Susan Martinez

**Social Worker Assistant
Community Health Department**

- Years at Hoag: 3
- Pursuing a master's degree in public health
- Inspired by her mother's experience with an autoimmune disease



Dear Kingston Technology,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for thinking of me to be one of the 13 Kingston Technology–Hoag Classic Scholar recipients for 2022. I was beyond excited and appreciative to learn of my selection for this scholarship. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and willingness to give to individuals pursuing an educational degree like myself. I am currently attending California State University, Long Beach in order to obtain my master's in public health with an emphasis in community health education. This is my first semester in the program, and I absolutely love it!

I know I chose the right career path given that this will allow me to not only make a difference in my mother's life but in so many other individual's lives as well. My mother has had lupus for 25 years now, and I chose to go into public health in order to implement new autoimmune health-related programs for individuals like my mother. Seeing her suffer for so many years and at times not knowing what resources or help were out there for her and her specific condition has been difficult. It is my goal to find new resources and implement new programs that may be lacking related to lupus

and other autoimmune diseases. Apart from autoimmune-related programs, I also hope to implement new programs that aim at eliminating health disparities for the low socioeconomically affected populations in our community. I am currently a social worker assistant/case manager at the Melinda Hoag Smith Center for Healthy Living. I have been working here for three years, and I love being able to assist low-income, underinsured and/or uninsured individuals and families to get connected to the resources they need.

This scholarship will allow me to continue my education, pay for my school tuition, pay for my books, parking pass, school materials and all other school-related fees. Overall, this scholarship will make a big impact in my life and help me both financially and educationally. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity, and I will use this scholarship to make a difference in this world. Thank you, and I hope to one day be able to help students achieve their education goals, just as you are helping me.

Sincerely,
Susan Martinez

hoag
Hospital
Foundation